

## UTILITY BOARD/COMMON COUNCIL

Thursday, October 6, 2011

7:00 P.M.

The Common Council and Utility Board of the City of Huntingburg met in joint session at its regularly scheduled meeting time on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at the hour of 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Huntingburg City Hall at 508 E. Fourth Street, Huntingburg, Indiana. Members Boeglin, Majors, Sparrow, Kays, and Summers were present. Also present was Mayor Belcher. City Attorney Schneider was absent.

Mayor Belcher called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Majors, seconded by Kays and carried to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting.

A motion was made by Boeglin, seconded by Summers and carried to approve the claims as presented.

This was the date, time and place for the 2012 budget public hearing. Clerk-Treasurer Dippel presented a time-line of the budget process and presented the proposed budget appropriations, tax levy, and associated tax rates. He indicated the proposed budget was created using an assessed value of \$150,000,000. He indicated that he thought the assessed value would be around \$162,000,000 but in order to not have the levy reduced because of the unknown assessed value he suggested adopting a assessed value of \$150,000,000. Dippel compared the proposed budget to last years budget by fund and also noted the areas that were changed from the appropriation amounts used for review in the detailed Common Council budget meetings held on August 24, 2011 and August 25, 2011. Dippel indicated that this is a public hearing and asked if anyone would like to comment or speak to any issues of the 2012 budget; no one spoke to the budget. The budget amounts proposed were:

Appropriations	\$8,784,016
Property Tax Levy	1,620,042
Total Tax Rate	1.0801 per \$100 AV

In a prior Council meeting it was discussed to use money from the Rainy Day Fund, EDIT fund, and the Riverboat Fund to finance a new splash park near the City pool. The Mayor recommended that the Council appropriate \$70,000 from the Rainy Day fund and \$70,000 from the EDIT fund to be used toward the proposed splash park.

Christine Prior spoke to the splash park issue, stating that she did not think this was the right time to spend money on a splash park considering the economy and that people are wanting a park on the north side of the City. She thought the City should wait another year to construct a splash park that will not be able to be used year round.

Jeff Summers spoke to the splash park issue, stating that 78% of people were for the splash park according to a survey and that the splash park could be used at least 5-6 months out of the year.

A motion was made by Summers, seconded by Boeglin and carried to appropriated \$70,000 from the EDIT Fund and \$70,000 from the Rainy Day Fund for the splash park.

The public hearing ended.

A motion was made by Kays, seconded by Summers and carried to introduce Ordinance No. 2011-24 entitled:

### **ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES NO. 2011-24**

The Mayor informed the Council of the issue of trees on 4<sup>th</sup> Street causing damage to buildings and sidewalks. He noted that the City is currently being sued because of bricks raising on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. There was discussion on the possible options to address the problem. The Mayor indicated that he would go down 4<sup>th</sup> Street and ask store owners to be on a committee to come up with a plan to address the tree problem. He indicated that the tree in front of the Overtime needed to come out because of the damage

being caused to the building. He noted that no other trees will come down until the committee comes up with a plan that they think will work.

John Rohlman addressed the Council about his concerns with code enforcement about cutting grass. He noted that he has called repeatedly for the last 3 years about two properties and his calls seem to be falling on deaf ears. He wanted to know the procedure and how does the process work for these code violations.

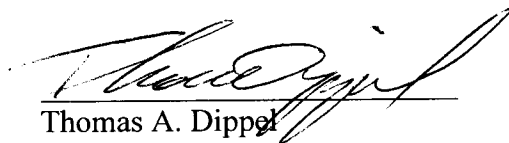
The Mayor indicated that some people are like revolving doors with grass violations; they receive a ticket and pay it. He indicated they then have 5 or 7 days to mow it or receive another ticket and pay it again. He request that Rohlman bring pictures into him tomorrow and also to give him the addresses involved. Rohlman noted that the City should know where the hot spots are and he should not have to call.

Rohlman also complained about cats and asked if there were any laws addressing the number of cats allowed. The Mayor noted there were no laws on the number of cats allowed. Discussion followed.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made by Summers, seconded by Kays and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 o'clock P.M.



Marvin R. Belcher  
Mayor



Thomas A. Dippel  
Clerk-Treasurer